



Super Ayi

China's housekeepers (ayi) are doing far more than simple housekeeping. Today, the ayi industry has stratified with many ayi specializing in culinary art and fashion.

Their special skills, usually picked up through years on the job, have helped some of them move up to be their client's business assistants and even partners.

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Web critics slam city's air standards

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Sculptor chooses China

Norwegian artist Ola Enstad explains why many of his peers are splitting their time between home and China.

Job market draws foreign retirees

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Art heist exposes holes in 798

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Pilgrimage to the plateau

The Northern Sichuan-Tibet line stops at many spots of deep religious significance to the Tibetan people.

Beijing slogan hopes to capture spiritual essence

By Chu Meng

"Patriotism, innovation, inclusiveness and morality" have been selected by Beijing residents as the four terms that best represent the spirit of the city, municipal authorities announced last Wednesday.

The word cluster, called "Beijing spirit" for short, is a major part of the city's effort to promote its sense of values. It was selected after a six-month citywide survey of settled residents and thorough consultations with socialists and anthropologists.

Residents were given the choice of five such word clusters, which were prepared by a panel of 30 experts. Other potential clusters contained words such as upright, harmonious, innovative and dreams.

Votes were collected through the popular Web portals Sina and Sohu, and by e-mails sent between September 16 and 25. A total of 2.9 million residents voted. "Patriotism, innovation, inclusiveness and morality" won with a 60 percent majority.

"The slogan is part of the city's image strategy. The precise, simple

and easily-digested words will play an important role in its future developmental goals," said Lian Yuming, director of International Institute of Urban Development of Beijing.

It will also act as a spiritual guide for municipal development in nearly all sectors, such as cultural revitalization, education, economic regulation and policies for migrants, Lian said.

"The four words were more comprehensive and in-depth than the other candidates, as they reflect both the historic and contemporary spirit," said Yan Chongnian, a historian at the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences.

"Inclusiveness is the most important aspect. The capital has to be an open and equal platform for everyone seeking opportunities here," said Fu Hua, deputy secretary-general of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee.

Yu Dan, a cultural expert at Beijing Normal University, said Beijing is already an "inclusive city" according to the standards set by the United Nation's Human Settlements Program in 2000; an inclusive city is one in which everyone, regardless of wealth,

gender, age, race, ethnicity or religion, is empowered to participate productively and positively.

"Beijing is one of the most inclusive cities in the world, as shown by its positive reception of the contributions of people from other places and the social care it provides to vulnerable groups," Yu said in the report.

The municipality's official statement said "patriotism" is included because the city's residents have shown great emotional attachment and dedication to the country during major events like the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

"Innovation" is geared toward driving the city forward in scientific and cultural areas. "Social morals" are virtues, such as honesty and integrity, that represent key features of citizens' lives.

Lian said the municipal government should provide further interpretations of the value system and invite more citizens to tell their own stories about their understanding of the city's identity and their emotional attachment to it.

Foreign firms worst performers in social responsibility

By Zhang Dongya

Foreign enterprises have the worst record for corporate social responsibility in the nation, according to a report published by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) Tuesday.

Nearly 70 percent of the surveyed enterprises chose to stand by and look on when facing social issues and failed to promote social responsibility in their companies, it said.

The survey investigated the Top 100 enterprises in the country, including state-owned companies, private enterprises and foreign companies. Marks were given based on a percentage system: the average score was less than 20 percent.

The social responsibility index of Top 100 domestic enterprises increased to 19.7 this year – 3 points higher than last year. However, levels of corporate social responsibility remain low.

The evaluation established five tiers for companies, from A-level "excellent performers" to E-level "spectators." Among the Top 300 companies, 205 were ranked as E-level.

More than 20 companies actually scored 0 percent or went into the negative. Most of the exceptionally low scorers were foreign enterprises, including Adidas, Coke Cola and automobile giant DaimlerChrysler.

Adidas had the lowest score. The company disclosed little information about its plans for social responsibility, anti-bribery, environmental management and energy conservation plans.

"Their poor performance has its roots in our legal system, which places few restrictions on enterprises and does not prescribe any punishments for them. For enterprises in China, it costs little to violate the law and regulations. Many companies take advantage of that to boost profits by breaking the law," said Yin Fuqiang, a lawyer at the Beijing Long'an Law Firm.

Some experts said people pay too much attention to the market and profits, and very little to the environment, management and responsibility.

The academy averaged evaluation systems established by the international corporate social responsibility index system, domestic corporate social responsibility and the social responsibility evaluation system used by the Fortune 500.

The index contains four aspects: responsibility management, market responsibility, social responsibility and environment responsibility.

2011 is the third year the academy has conducted its survey: results have shown no noticeable improvement during the past three years.

International Expo promotes culture, creativity



By Han Manman

The 6th China (Beijing) International Cultural and Creative Industry Expo began Wednesday in Beijing.

As an annual international gathering for cultural and creative industries, the five-day expo serves as a platform to promote new technology and Chinese culture and bolster trade in cultural products and services.

The main exhibition, held at the China International Exhibition Center, includes the Cultural and Creative Industry Exhibition Hall, Broadcasting, Film and Television Exhibition Hall and Tourist Attraction and Commodity Exhibition Hall.

The expo will also have forums, promotions, trade fairs and art performances.

CFP Photo

Officials face pressure to tighten air monitoring

By Han Mamman

For two weeks, the capital has been encased in some of the thickest smog of the year, causing severely reduced visibility on all roadways.

Many are calling the local government's air monitoring standard, which often posts wildly different results from the US embassy's monitoring system, a sham.

Although the air cleared up to some extent this week, the public hopes the government can do more to monitor air quality and inform residents about the details and risks of such serious pollution.



CFP Photo

Beijingers hope the government will improve its monitoring of air quality and inform residents of relevant risks.

Opens to public

The Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau welcomed its first tour group on Tuesday morning. The first group of 40 visitors was given the chance to tour the station and learn how air quality is monitored and how the monitoring equipment works.

It was the first time the office opened its doors to individual visitors since its founding in 1974, although several schools, companies and other organizations have taken educational tours since 1997.

The bureau plans to hold an open house every Tuesday, each time allowing 40 new visitors. The tours are intended to give the public a better understanding of how air quality data is collected and analyzed, the bureau said.

However, critics call it an attempt to save face and regain trust after netizens dealt a severe blow to the office's credibility.

"We want the public to see how we work and convince them of the sincerity of our efforts," said Wang Xiaoming, a spokesman for the bureau.

Li Yunting, an engineer at the center, said the city has 27 monitoring stations that collect data about nitric oxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and other airborne pollutants smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM10). Workers in the center's equipment room analyze the data and release it to the public.

In response to queries about why the office has such wildly different results from the US embassy, Wang said the bureau's monitoring machines adhere to China's national standards and that they are confident the data is trustworthy.

Different results

The huge discrepancy between the environmental bureau's posted results



Many residents put more trust in the US rating system than the figures published by local bureau.

and those of the US Embassy in Beijing has been frequently debated.

During the heavy October smog, the bureau defined the city's air as "slightly polluted" while the embassy called it "unhealthy" or "dangerous."

The bureau was heavily criticized by residents who put more trust in the US rating system.

Wu Changhua, the Greater China director of the Climate Group, said the different results come from different monitoring standards.

The US embassy bases its results of danger on the presence of particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM2.5), whereas Beijing's meteorological authorities follow the PM10 standard.

But what's the difference?

Particulate matter refers to various types of airborne pollutants. "But PM2.5 are widely seen to be more dangerous for the health, as they can pass through smaller airways and penetrate deeper into the lungs," Wu said.

In addition to experts like Wu, a

growing number of media groups and celebrities are calling for the government to adopt the PM2.5 and begin tighter monitoring of the capital's infamous air pollution.

Pan Shiyi, a well-known property developer, conducted an unofficial Web poll on Sunday to see whether China should adopt the US' air measurement standards. As of yesterday, more than 98 percent of the 39,000 respondents agreed that it's time for China to toughen up on pollution.

"If more people knew how serious the problem is, then they could consciously prevent air pollution and change their unhealthy lifestyles," Pan said in his appeal, which he said he would forward to the Minister of the Environment.

Beijing actually does monitor air quality using the PM2.5 standard, but this data is kept sealed, according to the environment bureau.

Li said her bureau has established monitoring stations that analyze the city's PM2.5 pollution, but that "the data will only be released in the future, when the city adopts the PM2.5 standard."

Self-tests reliable

With the local government's switch still tied up in the knuckle dragging of bureaucracy, a few Beijingers are determined to monitor the air on their own.

Wang Qiuxia, a volunteer for environmental NGO Green Beagle, is arranging the lease of a PM2.5 monitoring machine that would collect air quality data for Beijing residents.

Wang said many people would prefer to test the air quality by themselves rather than rely on the government's data.

So far, Wang has lent the device to 20 people, encouraging them to test the air in their homes, on public trans-

portation and on the streets. "We want people to see for themselves how horrible the air is," she said.

Concerns about health, and big holes in published official data have created business opportunities for some companies such as the Changsha-based Broad Group, which is planning a national release of its Broad Life Phone next month.

The phone is fitted with a pollution monitoring device. It can check levels of atmospheric dust, as well as radiation from electrical equipment.

"We hope to have it on the market next month," said Peng Ji, vice CEO of Broad Group.

"The phone hasn't been approved by the authorities," he said, "but that won't affect the public's ability to measure and assess atmospheric quality."

Although many residents distrust official figures, Ma Jun, director of the Beijing-based Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs, said the local government has made great efforts to improve air quality since the 2008 Olympic Games.

Ma said Beijing authorities moved huge steelworks out of the capital, switched city heating from coal to natural gas, raised emissions standards for trucks and created new subways and bus lines.

The cost of the cleanup was estimated to be \$10 billion (63 billion yuan), not including the investment in mass transit.

In April, Beijing also launched a five-year action plan to improve the environment by phasing out coal-fired boilers, saying it wanted excellent or good air conditions for 80 percent of the days in the year by 2015.

"But there are big issues here. The rising population, the expansion of the city and the explosion in private car ownership have offset all the government's efforts," he said.

Creating opportunity

Returning students lead start-up culture

By Huang Daohen

With diplomas from foreign schools and a couple years of experience in Silicon Valley, China's returning students are bringing back both new technology and management concepts.

But rather than take those skills to the nation's state-run companies, many prefer to start new companies in the red-hot tech sector.

Starting a business is hard work. While their peers may finish work at 5 pm, those at start-ups work late into the night, on week-ends and through the national vacations.



The nation hosts many exhibitions and forums to entice students to return home from abroad.

CFP Photo

Return or not

"What do you think about the opportunities in China?"

It is the most frequent question Charles Cao runs into when he meets people studying or working in the US and Europe.

Cao gave up a comfortable life in the San Francisco Bay area in 2003 to return to China, bringing his wife Windy and his US-born daughter, seven-year-old Clare.

He first worked for a multinational enterprise, then became a partner at a domestic firm. Now the 36-year-old is in business for himself.

"When I decided to return, many said it wasn't the right time. Now they say maybe it was a little too late," Cao said.

Coming back to China was not an easy decision. At that time, it was trendy for people to return to China abroad and try their luck in the domestic industry.

"But I saw many frustrated husbands who moved back to the States, disappointed, because their wives were unhappy and their kids had trouble at school," Cao said.

Their workplace mannerisms, learned in foreign enterprises, often rubbed locals the wrong way and were often mistaken for arrogance.

But Cao soon found his years of overseas study and work had prepared him for

the market in China. He has a master's degree in business management and seven years of experience in multinational companies, where he ran the IT department.

"There are some pros and cons involved in adjusting to local life, but in the end, life is all about trade-offs," Cao said. "It is good to have options, though sometimes it is hard to make choices."

The start-up venture

Cao finds his new work exciting, even though it does keep him occupied on the nights and weekends.

"Here I feel like I'm starting a real career, not just another job," he said.

Cao's company, which offers Internet solutions, recently launched an online travel site. The idea came when he met Fritz Demopoulos, co-founder of Qunar.com, a travel search site which received a \$308 million (1.96 billion yuan) investment from Baidu in June.

Cao was stunned when he learned about Qunar's development. In just three years, the site's reach per million users has even surpassed the Qihoo search engine on Alexa, Amazon's traffic measurement tool.

Qunar's progress offers hope for Wanli, Cao's site.

But Wanli faces a market with existing strong players like the Nasdaq-listed Ctrip

"There are some pros and cons involved in adjusting to local life, but in the end, life is all about trade offs."

and eLong.

Cao isn't without his plan. Bloomberg described the country's online travel search market as having "a few gorillas and lots of monkeys."

"That's exactly the situation we have in the China market. We have gorillas like Ctrip and eLong, and also have smaller simians like Wanli and individual agencies," he said.

The country is vast and fragmented enough to make businesses like Ctrip and eLong useful to consumers. "About 80 percent of the hotels in the US are chain-affiliated," Cao said. "But in China that number is less than 20 percent. The Chinese market is even more fragmented than Europe's."

Money and talent

But starting a business turned out to be more compli-

cated than Cao had expected.

On a recent Tuesday morning, Cao huddled with his team – seven IT engineers in their 20s – in a 70-square-meter room for a daily meeting on the ninth floor of Tsinghua Science Park Building in Haidian District.

On the same floor, there are new start-ups like a chip designer, an online payment company and a few dozen software companies.

But Room A0913 is a lucky one: its former tenant, which designed chips for set-top boxes, received \$10 million (63.5 million yuan) in venture capital earlier this year and moved to a more upscale building.

Cao has more modest goals.

Wanli only needs \$1 million, at least for now. Cao said he's been talking to a few investors, "but so far there are no solid commitments."

When money stops coming in, start-ups are left to live or die on their ability to control costs. Cao has discovered that there are ways to keep costs down in the Zhongguancun area.

Cheap food is one way to start. Cao and his team eat at a Sichuan restaurant near the office. It serves meals at a very competitive 10 yuan per dish.

"We're trying to save every penny we can," Cao said. Some of the office furniture

was bought from a neighborhood market.

The real difficulty, Cao said, is locating talent.

The problem, Cao said, is that the first choice for most graduates of top schools is a big multinational: someone like P&G, Microsoft, Huawei or Lenovo.

"To most of them, start-ups like Wanli offer no security even if the pay is competitive," Cao said.

Start-up culture

Successful or not, returnees like Cao are laying a foundation for start-up culture, said Wen Chenjun, a researcher at the Institute of China's Economic Reform and Development at Renmin University of China.

Statistics show that enterprises started by returnees are much likelier to be successful and hire more employees than start-ups created by Chinese people who never studied or worked abroad.

Wen said that may be partly due to the culture. Chinese workers are more likely to value stability and fear failure, making the high-risk nature of start-ups a turn off.

"Many people don't know how to shape a start-up," Wen said. "No one teaches that kind of risk-taking here. Instead, teachers tell students to behave and follow what society expects them to do."

Space kiss of death for China, US?

China's two unmanned spacecrafts, Tiangong-1, a prototype space-station module, and Shenzhou crew capsule, successfully docked last week in what many called the nation's first "space kiss."

The docking heralds another significant step forward for China's human-spaceflight program, reported the US-based *Christian Science Monitor*. The country has cleared a significant technological hurdle on the path toward building, staffing and resupplying a space station, the report said.

But as China puts more spacecrafts into orbit and prepares its manned space

station to replace the aging International Space Station, some are worried that this will create a rift with the US. The question is, will the Chinese space kiss draw two giants closer together, or push them further apart.

The *Monitor* expressed hope for more cooperation between China and the US to get to Mars.

It is still unclear whether the two sides are interested in cooperating. If not, many worry that China's space program will spur the sort of conflict that the Sputnik satellite did when the Soviet Union launched it in 1957.

(Agencies)



A computer simulation showing Shenzhou-8 spacecraft docking at Tiangong-1 space lab module on November 3. CFP Photo

Outlook

Local experts say

What does space station mean for China?

Local experts say space research will make everyday life more convenient and a space station orbiting Earth is crucially important to the development of geosciences and to the exploration of outer space.

But China's planned space station can also be open to foreign scientists in order to promote global scientific

progress and to push human civilization forward, said Zhou Jianping, chief designer of the country's manned space program.

Weather forecasts make traveling easier and safer, and satellite navigation helps people avoid getting lost. Space technology has already become integrated into almost every aspect of peo-

ple's lives.

"How many advantages can a space laboratory bring? The fact that China's biopharmaceutical industry is far less developed than that of the West is a typical example for the answer of this question," said Hu Wenrui, a space physicist and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Hu said bio-scientific experiments in space could lead to the discovery of life-changing medicines. The benefits that the space laboratory can bring to such areas as semiconductors, special materials, astronomy and earth observation are also countless.

China will face new space engineering challenges.

Cui Jijun, director of the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, said that the number and frequency of China's launches has changed from sporadic periods of intensive launches several years ago to more regular rounds of intensive space launches. The highly intensive launches will further test China's space flight technologies. (Xinhua)

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Young and old bet on China

More foreigners head to China for work



Foreigners looking for work as English teachers attend a training session in Beijing.

Getty Images/CFP Photo

Senior Japanese's China plan

An increasing number of Japanese approaching retirement age prefer to seek job opportunities in booming China rather than retire in Japan, the *Financial Times* reported.

Akira Seijo, 64, who spent three years in China procuring parts for a Japanese furniture company, was supposed to return to Japan and ease into retirement.

But he was not ready for that and secured a production management position with a Japanese manufacturer in Shanghai.

"I wanted to work in China because it is still growing and I can use my experience," Seijo said.

Seijo is not alone, as more Japanese are being forced to look beyond their shores for career opportunities due to the country's sluggish economy.

More Japanese job seekers find their years of experience and technical know-how highly valued in China, where foreign talent is needed to beef up growth.

Recruit Agent, a Japanese recruitment company, noted the rising number of Japanese seeking work in China, and decided to expand the firm by placing 880 Japanese workers in China.

One reason for the trend is the increase in Japanese firms setting up R&D sites and sales offices in China, said Yasutaka Matsuda, business development manager at Recruit Agent.

In July, for instance, cellphone maker Sony-Ericsson opened an R&D center in Beijing.

These China-based Japanese firms, Matsuda added, prefer to employ Japanese staff, including managers, locally, to avoid the expense of shipping expatriate employees from Japan.

Besides, Japanese with work experience in China and who can speak Mandarin are able to serve the companies better.

A recent survey in Shanghai showed two in three China-based Japanese firms

hiring Japanese belong to the manufacturing sector. Meanwhile, the demand for Japanese in the services sector is on the rise.

However, those Japanese managers hired in China may suffer a pay cut of at least 50 percent, Matsuda said.

"But these people are generally not that concerned about pay. Rather, they are keen to put their experience and expertise to good use," he said.

Kazuhiro Matsufuji was under pressure at 55 to take early retirement from the Japanese food manufacturer he worked for.

But now at 65, he is back at work in China as a senior project leader at Lead-S, another recruitment company that introduces Japanese workers to China.

Moreover, not all Japanese workers in China suffer a pay cut if their experience happens to be what China yearns for.

Recruitment agencies reveal that experienced Japanese production managers and engineers with expertise in advanced technologies such as solar batteries and electric cars can earn good money in China.

Some metalworking engineers can rake in as much as 50,000 yuan (\$7,835) a month, according to Lead-S.

Darryl Green, the executive vice president for ManpowerGroup, a workforce services provider that has placed 1,000 Japanese managers in jobs in China over the last 18 months, said Japanese engineers are "a great source of ... experience for emerging market countries."

These engineers, who may not secure a top position in Japan, were lured to China by high salaries and benefits, he added.

"They're a bit like movie stars with their contracts," Green said.

Young expats join in

Senior Japanese are not the only on the move. Recently, *China Daily* reported that the number of Europeans looking for jobs in China has risen.

It's nothing compared to the number from the US, but it is rising. And the trend is likely to continue, the report said.

Figures released by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security showed that 231,700 foreigners were employed in China at the end of 2010, compared with 223,000 in 2009.

Unlike the Japanese, younger foreigners are finding jobs in China on the back of its strong economy, which is performing vastly better than that of the US or Europe, said Carter Yang, managing director of Robert Walters Talent Consulting China.

"This year, China's average gross domestic product will increase about 8 to 10 percent. This has created more opportunities, especially within the financial services, pharmaceuticals as well as the retail industry," Yang said.

China provides an abundance of bigger career platforms and opportunities as both international investment companies and local Chinese companies focus on expansion plans within the past decade.

While global enterprises need international talent to grow their businesses in China, local companies also require top-tier candidates for their businesses in international markets, Yang said.

Yang said there was a rising trend for local Chinese companies capable and willing to offer international compensation packages and benefits that are targeted at expatriates working in China.

Helen Fung, managing consultant of recruiting company SHL Group China, shared the same view.

"Talent moving across national borders is a common practice that most multinationals in China are experiencing today. At the same time, more Chinese nationals and private enterprises are expanding internationally and need to recruit top talents from different parts of the world," she told the paper.

(Agencies)

Market watch

Pepsi, Tingyi tie-up a win-win

By Huang Daohen

The past week saw major changes in the country's beverage market as giants Tingyi and Pepsi announced a strategic business alliance.

The Taiwanese-owned food manufacturer Tingyi may be less heard of, but almost everyone in the China is familiar with Kang Shifu, its line of instant noodles.

Aside from its bestselling instant noodles, Tingyi also controls 54 percent of the Chinese market for bottled tea and 21 percent for juice as of June, according to the company's statistics.

Based on last Friday's agreement, the two companies would hold a stake in each other. Tingyi will acquire a 100 percent stake in Pepsi's wholly owned beverage assets in China, while the US firm would take a 5 percent stake in Tingyi's beverage operations.

Tingyi said in a statement that Pepsi is granted an option to raise its stake in the company's beverage assets to 20 percent by 2015.

No further details have been disclosed. The agreement has yet to be approved by the Ministry of Commerce.

Market analysts say the transaction is a win-win situation, and that Tingyi's plan is the result of many years of work, said Wen Yijun, an analyst with Oriental Securities in Beijing.

The company has long hoped to expand into the soft drink market after dominating the instant noodle and tea markets.

Pepsi's experience and brand can help Tingyi, Wen said. But he was cautious as to whether Tingyi would have access to Pepsi's formulas.

"Sharing such trade secrets can be fatal for a beverage brand. Pepsi should not do this," Wen said.

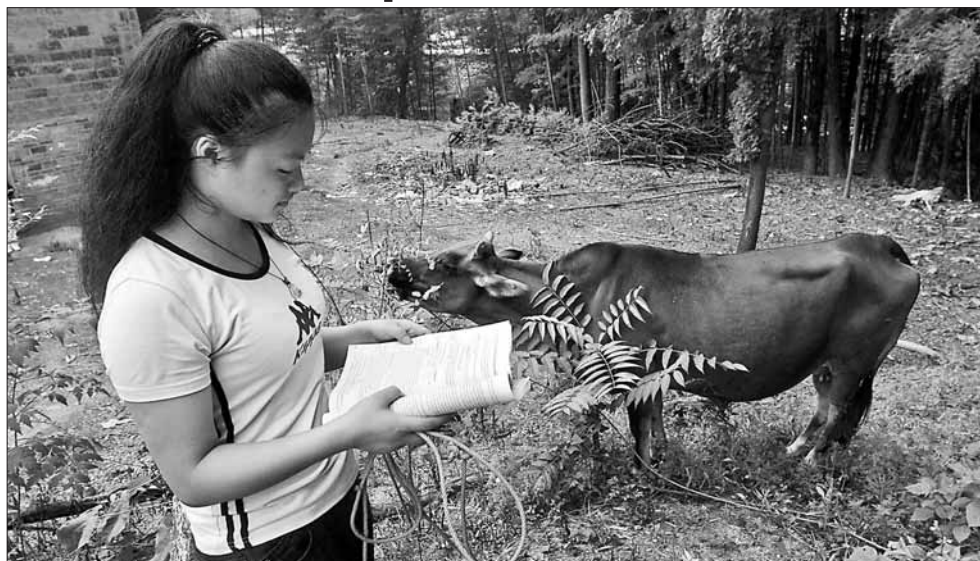
But Pepsi sees the team-up with Tingyi as more reasonable. The company's bottling business in China suffered great losses in recent years due to rising labor and material costs.

Figures from Bloomberg News show that Pepsi in China lost \$220 million (1.4 billion yuan) during the past two years.

Although the US beverage giant is a well-established brand with a history of more than 100 years, it continues to lag behind its rival Coca-Cola in the China market.

The tie-up offer came at a time when the company was eager to lessen its burden, Wen said.

Renmin University publicizes search for impoverished students



A girl reads a book while tending her family's cow in a village in Hunan.

Guo Guoquan / CFP Photo

By Zhao Hongyi

Earlier this month, Renmin University of China announced it will seek to enroll more students from rural areas – allowing some to forego the national entrance exam – in an effort to raise the country's awareness of this vulnerable group.

The university promised to recruit students from poor families that have had no university graduates in the last three generations.

Criteria include a student's academic record and a principal's recommendation. Qualified students will not need to take the national college entrance exam but rather will enter

the interview phase directly.

Chinese universities began selecting their students in 1949, with the national exam playing a pivotal role each year.

In the mid-1990s, many provinces began reforming the exam system by altering the subjects that are tested.

Since 2000, many universities, led by Peking University, Tsinghua University and Renmin University, have appealed for more autonomy from the Ministry of Education in choosing the makeup of their student body.

Five years ago, many schools obtained the right to enroll a certain amount of students based on the rec-

ommendations of principals without an entrance exam score.

College admissions officers are also beginning to look at a student's extracurricular activities.

Meanwhile, the number of students admitted from rural parts of China has dropped because of increasing tuitions. Many from the countryside simply can't afford going to college.

Local media has applauded Renmin University's latest move, but some commentators suspect the effect will be negligible.

Some believe giving schools more power to choose their students will only lead to more corruption.

ness, you should use the scores from the national college entrance exam.

– Su Shaoxin, netizen

College degree doesn't guarantee success

There are many ways to make a fortune, but success requires sustained success through three generations of work. To the poor, getting rich is most important. Enrolling in college isn't necessarily the best way to do that.

I suspect the decision is another way for the university to promote itself, as it must find ways of distinguishing itself from thousands of other universities. All the schools are fiercely competing for talented students.

– wisdom166, netizen

Debate of the week

Campaign to create 'dutiful children'

The China National Association for Ethical Studies has launched a five-year campaign to cultivate 1 million "dutiful children" in a new morality drive that has been met with skepticism.

Wang Haibin, who heads a division of the association promoting morality education, said the campaign would target children between 4 and 6 years old. They would study filial piety and the teachings of ancient Chinese philosophers such as Confucius and Mencius.

Under the five-year plan, 30 to 60 preschool pupils would be selected in each county, starting next year, to receive etiquette and morality lessons for 100 days. The pupils who pass would receive an additional three years of such studies before they would be deemed "dutiful Chinese children."

However, organizers did not specify the criteria for a dutiful child.

The project, which was launched on Sunday, triggered much discussion online, particularly on Sina Weibo, where many criticized the initiative.

Shanghai-based writer Jin Manlou called the project laughable, saying a dutiful son was not something the government could cultivate – similar to how official anti-corruption campaigns had yet to deliver a graft-free government.

Expat emperor causes online stir

A Canadian teacher caught the attention of Shanghai residents by dressing as an ancient Chinese emperor on the city's subway on Monday, a Halloween stunt that soon went viral on the Internet, local news portal Eastday reported.

William Lefeuivre, who teaches project management at the Sino-British College of the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, was seen wearing a golden dragon robe and holding a fan as he took the metro with two students on Monday morning, looking every bit the emperor inspecting his domain.

A passerby took Lefeuivre's picture and posted it online, which was forwarded thousands of times within two hours. A netizen going by the name Everyone Loves Teacher Liu joked: "Everyone is equal in the 21st century. Even the emperor has to take the crowded subway and nobody gave up their seat for him."

"It is so interesting to witness a foreign man dressed as the emperor," said a netizen going by the name Smart Little Boy.

Comment

We are taking more social responsibility

We're trying to find more ways to balance the distribution of higher education resources between the rich and poor.

Elsewhere, like in the US, universities recruit students from poor families because they have demonstrated a willingness to sacrifice and work hard to achieve their goals.

– Li Zhu, president, Education International Cooperation Group

Universities cannot be the judges

Universities are players in the education industry. They are not and should not be the rule makers. Renmin University's idea sounds good on paper, but who knows what the results will be?

Today, the university is not the only way to bring young people out of poverty. A degree doesn't guarantee success. Many graduates are facing unemployment and struggling in the market.

– Zhang Li, journalist, Beijing Evening News

Scores are universal

The decision reminds me of grassroots campaigns during the Cultural Revolution. I am a college graduate, but it has nothing to do with my father, grandfather or great-grandfather! Also, I'm not successful. I'm highly suspicious of these reforms of higher education.

If you emphasize balance and fair-

Expert's view

Success begins with early education

You can recruit rural students if you want, but you shouldn't publicize it. I don't know why Renmin University decided to go public with its plan. Is it trying to invite bribes, forgery and corruption? Or is it trying to promote itself?

Three decades ago, China practically had no rich families at all. Everyone was equally poor. What does Renmin University mean when it says "poor for three generations"? Every student is

qualified!

To balance the distribution of higher education resources, we need the central government to promulgate a national measure to force universities to absorb more students from poor families.

Furthermore, it's too late to emphasize fair and balanced higher education. We should emphasize elementary and primary education, which is the "starting line." That's more important than uni-

versity education and easier to manage.

The most practical way is to provide more scholarships, loans and assistance to these students to help them finish their college courses.

This will force them to learn the market rules and pay back their loans when they enter society. That would be actually helpful.

– Xu Xiaoping, vice president, New Oriental Education Group

A Norwegian sculptor 'from' Chongqing



One of Ola Enstad's works named *Fist and Rose*



A self-portrait finished in Chongqing



Enstad's *Divers*

Renowned Norwegian sculptor Ola Enstad went to Chongqing in 2005 for a two-month residency at the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute.

He liked it so much that he decided to stay.

Now the 67-year-old artist has a studio in Beijing.

Enstad is a pioneer among an increasing number of Norwegian sculptors who work part-time in China. He has been splitting his time between China and Norway since 2005, and said the reason for this is because of the good casting bronze available in China, and the high level of skill in the Chinese sculpture community.

Enstad's signature works include "Fist and Rose" and "Divers," both of which are about the dullness of reality and conflicts between different social circles.

Two of his stainless iron sculptures, "Chongqing Man 11" and "Chongqing Man 12," are currently on display in Datong, Shanxi Province as part of the First International Sculpture Biennale.

Datong, most famous for its Yungang Grottoes housing more than 51,000 ancient Buddha statues, seems a natural pick as China's "sculpture capital." About 330 works by contemporary artists from China and other countries are on display.

(By Chu Meng)



Ola Enstad



Photos provided by Anne Sophie Ofrim

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US ambassador seeks roots in South China

By Han Manman

In an emotional visit to his ancestral village in Guangdong last Friday, US ambassador to China Gary Locke said his success owes to the hard work and sacrifices made by his Chinese forefathers.

It was his third time back to the village, though his first since being appointed ambassador. His visit on Friday was warmly received not only by villagers from his father's birthplace in Jilong village, Taishan, but also from nearby villages.

"I was born in Seattle, but my roots are here in China, Guangdong Province," he said to the villagers.

"I believe that my success in the US was made possible because of the contributions and sacrifices, not just by my father but all the members of the family village," Locke said, adding that his hard-working attitude was also because of his father, who "constantly worked for seven days a week, 365 days a year."

Accompanied by his uncle, Locke placed a portrait of his father, who died in January, alongside commemorative plaques of other ancestors in the Locke family's home village.

He said taking his father's portrait back to his home was a key purpose of his trip.

Locke and his sister were also taken to see the house where their parents lived when they got married, and later



Locke's main purpose returning to Jilong was to take his father's portrait back to his home. CFP Photo

paid their respects to their ancestors at a family graveyard.

Amid fireworks, he visited the family graves, with 40-odd members of his extended family. They bowed to the graves, burned incense and gave offerings of two suckling pigs.

Visiting his father's hometown is just a part of Locke's three-day Guangdong visit. He also visited Sun Yat sen Memorial Hall and local secondary schools, met with AmCham South China, China Investor and the representatives from American Service companies. He also attended the 30th anniversary celebration of American International School of Guangzhou.

Photos and news of his visit were

shown on the American embassy's Sina Weibo and once again garnered the attention of Chinese netizens.

Earlier this year, netizens praised Locke for pushing his own luggage trolley upon arrival at the airport and waiting in line at Starbucks.

Locke's easygoing manner has made him a subject of both praise and criticism on the mainland.

"It was completely unexpected, and not by design," Locke said at a roundtable discussion with local reporters in Guangzhou. "I'm somewhat overwhelmed by the microblogging that takes place in China, and the smartphones and all the people that want to take photos of myself and my family."

Cultural icons to show US culture to China

By Han Manman

Meryl Streep, Yo-Yo Ma, Joel Coen and Amy Tan are among the notable American cultural figures who will travel to Beijing next week to take part in a groundbreaking four-day cultural exchange.

The Asia Society's Center on US China Relations and the Aspen Institute will hold the first-ever US-China Forum on the Arts and Culture beginning next Wednesday.

The forum will launch a series of cultural exchanges including performances, classes and roundtables to convey American culture to locals.

The Forum is intended to create new opportunities for American artists to collaborate and converse with their Chinese peers as part of a larger effort to promote "people-to-people" exchanges between the two countries.

The opening ceremony will be on November 16 with a banquet at the US Embassy in Beijing hosted by US ambassador Gary Locke with a dinner prepared by renowned California restaurateur Alice Waters, working in collaboration with local Chinese organic farmers.

Forum highlights will include performances and panel discussions on the arts, culture and the humanities, in addition to screenings of Joel and Ethan Coen's Oscar-nominated film *True Grit* and a special screening of *The Iron Lady*, Meryl Streep's upcoming film on Margaret Thatcher. Streep will also give a reading in which she is accompanied by cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and Ma will give a separate performance with Chinese musicians.

Daytime events include two days of dialogue and panel discussion between Chinese and American artists on subjects including film, photography and food, all aimed at deepening understanding and appreciation of one another's work.

Photographer Susan Meiselas will share her expertise as both a photographer and a curator of photography. She is best known for her work in Latin America, documenting insurrection and human rights issues in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Last May, China and the US signed a bilateral agreement to promote greater "people-to-people" exchanges. This US-China forum on the arts and culture is intended to further that effort and be part of a long-term cooperative, creative partnership between the US and China. A reciprocal delegation of Chinese cultural figures is expected to visit the US in 2012.

Sarkozy's father brings paintings to Beijing



Among Pal Sarkozy's paintings is a portrait of his son, president Nicolas Sarkozy. CFP Photo

By Han Manman

Pal Sarkozy, father of French president Nicolas Sarkozy, is holding a digital art exhibition of his 78 paintings at Beijing Prosper Center this week.

Among the paintings is a portrait of his son when he was elected president and a portrait of daughter-in-law

Carla Bruni-Sarkozy at her wedding.

Pal Sarkozy is a famous artist in France. Though 84, his artworks never appear old-fashioned. As a surrealist, he draws in both symbolic and realistic styles, representing a modern painting ideology.

Called Love Life, the exhibition, a

cooperation between Sarkozy and his German digital artist, Werner Hornung, is a combination of traditional art with modern digital technology.

Innovative electronic emulation technology is used on the canvas paintings on display.

The exhibition ends Sunday.

Local nightlife blogger helps locals pick city's best cheap wines



Ten wine consumers taste and judge 19 bottles of red wines for the third annual Grape Wall Wine Challenge.

By Annie Wei

Jim Boyce, founder of the website Grape Wall of China and well known bar and nightlife blogger, hosted his third wine competition on Tuesday.

The annual Grape Wall of China Challenge convened 12 Chinese consumers to judge 40 wines that cost less than 100 yuan per bottle at Modo restaurant.

Unlike other contests that focus on more expensive wines, this contest focuses on affordable wines that might appeal to a wider audience, Boyce said.

That's why all judges are simple consumers.

Boyce said that more Chinese are growing interested in wines and have the money to try them.

"Many consumers feel insecure when it comes to wine, which is one reason why we're holding this contest," Boyce said.

The popularity of social

media sites such as Sina Weibo has facilitated chatter about wines. Websites like Yes My Wine also encourage people to try.

"It's all about getting consumers to try wine," he said.

Boyce chose to work with Modo because the restaurant has a card-based wine preservation machine, the first and only in Beijing, where people who swipe a card can try 25- to 150-milliliter samples of 16 different wines.

The challenge's clear purpose is to find the best inexpensive wine and boost consumer confidence. After all, what consumers like is more important than what wine experts like.

The scoring is simple: judges blind-taste the wine and mark one of four options: I love it, I like it, I don't like it, I hate it. In the end, judges pick their top three.

Amor Mao, editor of *Robb Report China*, was one of the judges.

"I think it has a good theme," he said.

The competition was open to any average consumer, Mao said. "I think many Chinese consumers have a misunderstanding about drinking wine - (they think) only people who know a lot about wine drink wine. In fact, I think drinking wine should be a casual thing."

Mao said he discovered many good wines under 100 yuan through the event.

Boyce said his plan was to keep the challenge but also do more spinoff events, such as a competition for wines between 100 to 200 yuan, and one focusing on white wines.

"The vast majority of wine sold in China is red, but I find a lot of my friends here enjoy white wines and I think those deserve more attention," he said.

Boyce has also been interested in Chinese wines for many years. Another spinoff

event involving Chinese wines, the North by Northwest Challenge, will be held at the Hilton Beijing tomorrow.

"We will have several dozen Chinese wines from Shanxi, Shaanxi, Ningxia, Gansu and Xinjiang," he said.

These will be wines from smaller operations, such as Grace Cineyard, Helan Qing Xue, Silver Heights, Sunshine Valley and Domaine Helan Mountain, "which are raising their quality," Boyce said, "and they are using Chinese grapes, which is important, since some wines here include imported bulk wine."

For the annual 100-yuan challenge, nine leading importers and distributors - ASC, Aussino, China Wines & Spirits, East Meets West, French Wine Paradox, Links, Mercuris, Summergate and Torres - submitted their recommendations. Each provided up to four kinds of wine, with two red and two white.

Here are the white wine winners



1. Australia Warrane Sticky Beak Chardonnay 2010 (China Wine and Spirits, 87 yuan)
2. France Barremont Chardonnay 2010 (Mercuris, 89 yuan)
2. Argentina Trivento Torrontes 2010 (Summergate, 95 yuan)
4. South Africa Kleinze Zalze Chenin Blanc 2010 (Torres China, 99 yuan)
5. Argentina LoTengo Torrontes 2010 (ASC, 88 yuan)

Results for the red wine contest will be announced next week. For more information, visit grapewallofchina.com.

All white wines in the contest retail for less than 100 yuan.

Photos by Jim Boyce

Event

Learning knitting

Not many urbanites still knit like their parents did, but if you're interested to learn, a good place to start is Beyond Knitting every Wednesday.

The online store offers knitting classes for all skill levels, and teaches basics such as casting on, knit stitch, purl stitch and casting off as well as more advanced techniques. The classes will cover the background of knitting. Different grades of yarn are available.

For more information, visit beyond-knitting.com.

When: November 16, 10 am - 12 pm

Email:

contact@beyondknitting.com

Cost: 200 yuan

Bicycle tour

For people who want to see the real Beijing and get to know how locals live within their neighborhoods on a daily basis, there's no better way than joining a small bike tour. Wan Lin Bicycle Tour is recommended for cycling trios. One can enjoy discovering interesting routes and the best sites for culture, art and shopping. The tour provides a bicycle.

Where: Jamaica Blue, Central Park, 6 Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Every Tuesday and Thursday

Email:

wanlin@xs4all.nl

Website:

wanlinbicycletours.com

Beijing buddies

The non-profit group is back with a new school year. Beijing Buddies takes volunteers to local migrant schools to help create a fun, energetic and creative environment for schoolchildren. All one needs is enthusiasm.

Beijing Buddies is a drop-in volunteering project, which means one can sign up for a day, a month or a year.

Where: Meet at Guomao subway station (Line 1, Exit C), 8:30 am every Saturday

When: November 12, 8:30 am - 2 pm

Email:

[dhateman@mcfchina.org](mailto:dbateman@mcfchina.org)

Website: mcfchina.org

(By Wei Ying)

Working from a home-office

By Annie Wei

Apart from freelancers, many people are choosing to work at home to save time and energy, and to avoid the hectic traffic.

It's easy to get distracted while working from home, though. That fact has led to the creation of several co-working groups that rent small offices to use with other freelancers.

Homeshop

American Elaine Ho and five friends rented a renovated hutong apartment and turned it into an alternative art space, which they share while working on individual projects.

Hopeshop, with eight tables to spare, rents space to freelancers for 600 to 1,000 yuan per month.

Most of Homeshop's tenants are in the creative services industry, doing art, design, translation, theory and movies.

Having a space like this means everyone can help one another, Ho said, as many freelance jobs and projects are introduced through friends.

Where: 8 Bei Ertiao, Jiaodaokou, Dongcheng District
Tel: 8403 0952

Beijing Coworking

This is a small expat co-working group started by Michael Daugherty, 26, from Boston, who works for an online company called Bespoke Row.



Michael Daugherty (left) founded Beijing Coworking with other members who work on their startup projects.
Photo provided by Beijing Coworking

The group started in spring. Each time, at least three or four people show up. Their gatherings are mostly in Dongcheng or Chaoyang District.

The group hopes to gather more independent professionals from other fields, but they prefer people who are their own bosses, because the group is more like a coalition of startup entrepreneurs.

The good thing about this community is that members discuss their goals and push each other to succeed.

For more information, visit beijingcoworking.com and get on a distribution list.

Garage Coffee

Beijing might not have the startup culture as Boston or

Silicon Valley, but in Haidian District, Su Di, 32, is very much cut in that entrepreneurial mode.

He opened Garage Coffee to help people who have business ideas. Visitors can stay as long as they like if they buy one cup of coffee.

For IT startup entrepreneurs, the location is perfect: between Lee Kaifu's Innovation Works and the Microsoft, Tencent and Sina buildings.

The coffee shop is 800 square meters and can accommodate 150 people. There are whiteboards, projectors and Wi-Fi.

Coffee costs 20 yuan and comes with free refills.

Other similar coffee stores

catering to startup companies include Beta Café and 3W in Zhongguancun.

Garage Coffee

Where: 2/F, Jinding Bingguan, 48 Haidian Wai Dajie, Haidian District

Open: 9 am - 10 pm

Tel: 8262 7127

Beta Café

Where: 1st floor of China Technology Exchange Building, 66, Beisihuan Xi Lu, Haidian District

Open: 9 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6268 0620

3W Café

Where: South side of 1st floor of Lifangting, 1 Sanyuan Jie, Zhongguancun, Haidian District

Open: 9 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6255 5255

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I'm thinking of having plastic surgery done in Beijing. Can you recommend a good hospital or clinic?

Some people recommend big state-owned hospitals like the Sino-Japanese Hospital. Many Chinese celebrities have reportedly had their faces done there.

How do I get to the Great Wall by bus?

You can get there via Bus 919 from the Deshengmen bus stop between 6:30 and 8:30 am. The ticket is 12 yuan. Or you can take a tourist bus from Qianmen between 6 and 10 am, or at Beijing Railway Station at the same time. You can also depart from Summer Palace between 6:30 and 10 am.

I have a car back in the US and I want to bring it here. How do I do that?

If you are a foreigner, you need to pay a car tax first. Take your passport, resident permit and work visa to a local custom (Add: 10 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District; Tel: 8573 6114) for the procedures. You need to register the car at a local vehicle authority as well. If you are of Chinese nationality, the tax policy is different. Please consult a customs officer for more information.

(By Wei Ying)

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News u can use

BEIJING TODAY Editor: Wei Ying Designer: Deng Ning

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By He Jianwei

Last month the art scene was stunned by a massive bust. Two Picasso paintings stolen in 2008 from a gallery in Switzerland were recovered in Serbia. A stolen Picasso etching turned up in Colombia. And in Beijing, Zao Wou-ki's painting went missing during an exhibition at Soka Art Center.

Police in Chaoyang District recently announced that the Soka heist was committed by a former security guard. China's fourth major art theft of the year has many gallery owners wondering whether it might be time to undertake serious management and security reform.



①



②



③

1. Original Prince Charles by Andy Warhol (left) and the counterfeit copy
2. Original Princess Diana by Andy Warhol (left) and the counterfeit copy
3. Original copy of Zao Wouki's 25.11.71 and the counterfeit
4. Two pieces from the gallery's permanent collection by Yan Peiming (left) and Zhang Xiaogang

Photos provided by Soka Art Center

The Soka Art Center was bustling in September at the opening ceremony of its latest exhibition. Commemoration: 10th Anniversary of Soka Art Beijing.

Today it is empty. On Oct. 3, 2011, the 1971 painting "25.11.71" by Chinese-French minimalist Zao Wou-ki was stolen. Five days later, Chaoyang police announced that they had apprehended a suspect.

The police were alerted to the theft on October 31 by a keeper of the gallery's warehouse. It was Monday when most of the galleries in 798 Art District were closed. The keeper had only gone to the gallery because he was expecting to receive a shipment that morning.

When he arrived, he found the shutters were open. Inside, several paintings were on the floor and the warehouse was a mess.

The owner of the gallery, Hsiao Fu-yuan, cut short a business trip to return to Beijing to assist in the investigation.

Hsiao said the missing painting was one of Zao's smallest, bought by a Taiwanese collector for NT \$17.6 million (4 million yuan) at the Raveland Spring Auction in June in Taipei.

"The collector is my friend. When he knew we would present an exhibition to celebrate the founding of our gallery in Beijing, he lent it to me for free," Hsiao said last Thursday at the gallery.

Hsiao said a man wearing a raincoat broke in the gallery at around 7 pm, some 30 minutes after it closed. "The door was intact. He disabled the alarm and security cameras. The monitoring camera only caught the scene of him entering the gallery," he said.

The suspect bought five counterfeit copies of five works — Zao's "25.11.71," Andy Warhol's "Prince Charles" and "Princess Diana" from

the exhibition and two paintings by Zhang Xiaogang and Yan Peiming that hang in the gallery's permanent collection.

The originals of Zao and Warhol's three paintings were removed and placed on the floor and the counterfeit goods were placed on the wall.

"The copies are crude and look like a student's work," Hsiao said. "The evidence shows that the suspect had planned the heist for a long time and was familiar with our security system."

Although the monitoring cameras did not catch the suspect's appearance, staff said he resembled a former security guard based on his manner of walking.

The police found the suspect employed at another gallery on November 3. He admitted to the heist.

The suspect began working at Soka Art Gallery in early June. Before he resigned from the gallery, he copied the keys to the shutters, the glass door and the warehouse door.

When he heard a new exhibition opened, he visited the gallery in September and took pictures of all the paintings with his camera. Back home, he checked the price of the paintings and decided to steal the five most expensive.

To deceive the gallery's staff, he hired someone to make copies of the five paintings and decided to substitute the counterfeits for the originals.

He wore a raincoat to disguise himself and put gloves and shoe covers on to avoid leaving any prints. After he switched the copies of Zao and Warhol's paintings, he heard a car revving outside and some people talking. He thought the staff from the gallery were returning, so he grabbed the smallest painting and ran to the second floor. He jumped out of the window and escaped.

The police found Zao's original piece in the

gallery where the suspect worked.

When he heard that the former security guard had been arrested, Hsiao said the former employee had made several "unreasonable" requests.

Security in our gallery is supposed to leave work at 6:30 pm, but he said he wouldn't leave until 10 pm. The gallery bought him dinner," Hsiao said. "I thought these demands were why he decided to leave."

"Art theft is rare in 798 Art District — especially thefts that have been so carefully planned," Hsiao said. "I heard of several break-ins, but only computers and books were stolen."

The case has many of China's museums and galleries on edge.

"We checked our security system. I can't say it's flawless, but I'm sure that we invested more in it than other galleries in the district," he said.

But real blame may rest with the management. "After our last exhibition opened, I made a business trip to Europe. Around the same time, our manager was hospitalized with appendicitis. We have been short on hands for the last few months," he said.

After talking to the police, Hsiao submitted a report to the 798 Management Committee.

"The management office has responsibility for this case. We pay management and security fees to them every year. They told me their security guards made regular patrols day and night," he said.

He said it was shameful that the monitoring cameras of the art district did not record anything about the suspect. "Throughout the year, we repeatedly told the managers that there were no street lamps by our gallery. All they did was make excuses and complain about their budget," he said.

The gallery is closed while it updates its security system. It will reopen on November 19.

"Throughout the year, we repeatedly told the managers that there were no street lamps by our gallery. All they did was make excuses and complain about their budget."



④



CFT Photo

Hip-hop favorite recalls gangster years



Ice-T plays a New York detective on the NBC police drama *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*.

CFP Photo

By Charles Zhu

Tracy Marrow, better known as Ice-T, recently collaborated with journalist Douglas Century to publish his memoirs.

Ice: A Memoir of Gangster Life and Redemption From South Central to Hollywood follows the 53-year-old musician and actor as he changes from robbing people to singing for them, from advocating cop killing to playing a cop in a TV drama and from being castigated by the president to receiving the NAACP Image prize.

The book starts in suburban New Jersey where Marrow led "a real middle-American life." He moved to live with relatives in the Crenshaw Neighborhood of Los Angeles after both his parents died of heart attacks. He "first learned I was black" around the age of seven.

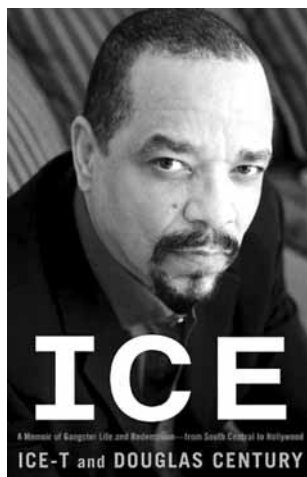
After graduating from high school in Crenshaw, he served in the US Army for four years. His sergeant called him a "loser," and the provocation urged him to become someone of note.

After leaving the Army, Marrow hoped to avoid gang life and violence. He decided to make use of the stereo equipment he had purchased in Hawaii and make a name for himself as a disc jockey. While performing as a DJ at parties, he received more attention as a rapper, and decided to pursue it as a career.

After breaking up with his girlfriend Adrienne, he returned to a life of crime and robbed jewelry stores with his high school friends. He described how he and his friends would pose as customers to plan the thefts and smashed the stores' display glass with baby sledgehammers, events Marrow later described in his songs.

He took his stage name Ice-T from his idol Iceberg Slim. He said, "I liked Iceberg because he was able to articulate the life."

In 1982, Marrow encountered producer William Strong from Saturn Records, who recorded his first single, "The Coldest Rap." It became an underground success and was widely



Ice, A Memoir of Gangster Life and Redemption: From South Central to Hollywood
By Ice-T and Douglas Century,
272pp, One World / Ballantine, \$25



Ice-T was the lead in the Hollywood film New Jack City.

acclaimed, though radio stations refused to play it. Even with this initial success, Marrow did not deem rapping as a professional career.

Shortly after his initial success, Marrow's friend Sean E. Sean was arrested for possession of both marijuana and goods that Marrow had stolen. Sean refused to roll over on Marrow and served two years in prison himself. Marrow said that he owed a gratitude to Sean, because it was during Sean's two years in prison that Marrow began to pursue rap as a career.

During this time, Marrow had a car crash and was hospitalized as a John Doe because he did not carry any identification. After being discharged from the hospital, he decided to break, once and for all, from the criminal lifestyle and pursue professional rapping.

He wrote what is believed the first gangster rap song, "6 in the Mornin'," which launched his career in the 1980s. He was signed to Sire Records in 1987, when he released his debut album *Rhyme Pays*. Next year, he founded the record label Rhyme Syndicate Records and released another album, *Power*.

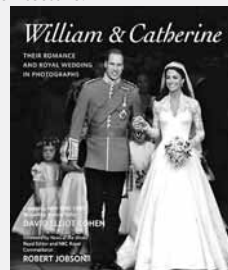
He co-founded the rap metal band Body Count, which he introduced in his 1991 album O.G.: Original Gangster. Body Count released its self-titled debut album in 1992. He became a true rocker with his band Body Count.

He also became the first rapper who played a leading role in a major Hollywood film with *New Jack City*. Since 2000, he has portrayed New York Police Department Detective Odafin Tutuola on the NBC police drama *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. The great irony is that he sang "Cop Killer," a lyrical melody perceived to glamorize killing police officers, that was attacked by President George H. W. Bush.

Ice-T's magnetic voice moves many listeners when he talks with scholarly insight and personal experience about the subject of gangsterism. He maintains that there is a difference between gangbanging and hustling.

Trends Lounge book listing

Located at The Place, Trends Lounge is a bookstore and cafe with a wide selection of books about international art, design and architecture.



William & Catherine
By David Elliot Cohen, 224pp,
Sterling, 200 yuan

Through more than 200 photographs, this book recounts the couple's wildly different childhood, their romance and engagement, the events leading up to the wedding and the grand affair itself, which was watched by 2 billion people. It also includes a brief pictorial history of British royal weddings from Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1840 to Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981.



The Encyclopedia of Punk
By Brian Cogan, 400pp, Sterling,
160 yuan

This illustrated A-Z guide leads readers through the fiery history of a furious, rebellious, contradictory and boundary-redefining musical genre and culture movement that remains as massively influential as it is wildly misunderstood.



The Wonderful Future That Never Was
By Gregory Benford, 208pp, Hearst Books, 200 yuan

Between 1903 and 1969, scientists made hundreds of predictions in *Popular Mechanics* magazine about what the future would hold. Their forecasts ranged from ruefully funny to eerily prescient and optimistically utopian. The book reconstructs their imagined future.

(By He Jianwei)



By He Jianwei

Shoushan stone is known as the finest colored stone for carving.

For more than 1,500 years it has been the most sought after stone for handicrafts in Fujian Province. Even the royal seals of the Qing emperors (1644-1911) were carved from it.

But one young sculptor is trying to harness this most conservative of stones for avant-garde sculpting.

New interpretation of traditional stone



Shoushan stone sculptures from the Seal series

At the age of 32, Qiu Qijing is known as the "bad boy" of Chinese sculpture.

He is both respected and reviled for his refusal to submit to traditional aesthetics when working in traditional materials.

But Qiu is no more eager to jump into the contemporary mainstream than he is to worship centuries-old concepts. He is searching for a distinctive style with which to re-examine the natural transformations of the world.

Through his works, viewers can see his self-examination of spiritual subjects that challenge onlookers to face their own conditions.

One of his famous works is Great Migration, an installation made in 2007 using Shoushan stone, which reflects urbanization of the countryside. He drilled and crafted vivid expressions on 2,300 rocks collected from Shoushan Mountain. Each represents a different characteristic of the craftsmen near the mountain.

Shoushan stone is Fujian's most valuable material for traditional sculpture. However, the craftsmen who collect and shape the stones live at the bottom of society.

The work was first exhibited in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, in 2007. To conclude the exhibition, there was a performance by two lion dancers and 30 migrant workers.

The stones were later carted to 36 exhibitions in Shanghai and Beijing by 20 trucks. Along the way, some of the stones were sold, some were lost and some were destroyed. Qiu said the journey itself was symbolic of the spirit of the great migration.

"Like human beings, each stone has its own destiny," he said.

Born into a poor family in Fujian Province, Qiu chose to study sculpture with veteran Shoushan carvers as a teen. When he graduated from the Academy of Arts and Crafts in Fuzhou in 1999, he found there were few chances for a sculptor to make a living

in modern times.

Then he received a phone call from Lin Xueshan, a master wood craftsman.

Lin ordered four of Qiu's sculptures priced between 700 and 800 yuan. "I was on top of the world after I got his call. Only in two or three days I earned 700 to 800 yuan. It was an enormous income for me. Most of classmates were earning 1,000 yuan per month at most at that time," he said.

In 2000, he became well-known as a craftsman in the field of handicrafts. In 2002, he won the gold prize at the Expo of Chinese Arts and Crafts Masters and Works in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province.

He earned hundreds of thousands of yuan every year, freed his family from poverty, bought his parents an apartment in Fuzhou and supported his brother.

But one year later, he gave up handicrafts to study at the Department of Sculpture at Central Academy of Fine Arts. Fed up with rigid college education, he rented a house in Cuigezhuang Village in the northeast of Chaoyang District.

After graduating in 2005, he returned to his hometown and lived in Shoushan Mountain to create contemporary art.

On November 24, he will present his latest works at the exhibition *Light and Dust* at the White Box Museum of Art and Joy Art Gallery in 798 Art District. The White Box Museum will present his works made of porcelain and jade. Joy Art Gallery will show more than 500 seals made of Shoushan stone that took him five years to complete.

Through the two series, he tries to interpret the depth of humanity as influenced by patriarchal society and natural desire.

As he said in his exhibition on the Great Migration, "Desire might be the most terrifying enemy of mankind, but it is also the engine of civilization."



Sculpture made of Hotan jade

Photos provided by White Box Museum of Art

Light and Dust – Qiu Qijing Solo Exhibition

Where: White Box Museum of Art, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Where: Joy Art Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 24 – December 19, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 4801, 5978 9788



Time for a tea break

By Annie Wei

A pot of quality tea paired with some cakes can make for a cozy afternoon break. There is a reason, after all, the British have been doing it for hundreds of years.

Beijing Today has found quality teas from high-end boutiques and Taobao vendors.

Whittard of Chelsea

This British brand, which sells tea, chocolate and coffee, has set up a store in Park Life, though its store isn't stocked with chocolate or coffee yet. Customers can order scones and set meals. Rose-flavored tea starts at 180 yuan for 50 grams.

Where: B24-25A, Park Life, Beijing Yintai Center, 2 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 8517 1596



Whittard of Chelsea is available in town.

Photos provided by Google.com

Online stores

Some people might enjoy visiting Malian-dao, the best-known tea street in south Beijing, to experience tea culture. But it's difficult to get there, so for those who don't have time to spare, online stores may be a better alternative.

Vendor shop6783-8661.taobao.com offers hand-painted ceramic teacups starting at 48 yuan. If you want to pair tea with sweets, try shop35130355.taobao.com for imported chocolate at lower prices, like Florent truffles at 80 yuan for 425 grams.

We also recommend zhu-zhu-home.taobao.com for its collection of coffee and tea wares. A simple coffee cup starts at 17 yuan, and a six-piece set including a teapot, two cups, two coasters and a milk pot costs 246 yuan. You can also find forks, knives and plates from brands like Denby, Zwilling, Reed & Barton and Luzerne.



Less expensive tea wares are available on Taobao.

CFP Photos



Model Du Juan walks the runway for NE•TIGER.

Photo provided by NE•TIGER

NE•TIGER opens China Fashion Week

By Chu Meng

One of China's leading luxury brands, NE•TIGER, presented at the opening of the 2011 China International Fashion Week at the Golden Hall of Beijing Hotel on October 25.

NE•TIGER presented its Hua Fu Haute Couture collection called "Tang-Jing."

Hua Fu refers to articles of clothing that reflect the splendor of dresses from the Tang Dynasty (618-907), featuring ancient embroidery from the country's ethnic minorities.

This year marked the 10th time NE•TIGER was in the opening show of fashion week, which last for one week. Supermodels Mo Wandan and Du Juan modeled 38 pieces of read-to-wear Hua Fu for its 2012 Spring and Summer collections. They walked to background music by Jing Shanyuan, a Chinese Buddhist known for his spiritual music.

Brand founder and chief

designer Zhang Zhifeng, 47, said the Tang Dynasty marked a golden era in Chinese history, when its civilization first achieved historic heights.

And NE•TIGER, Zhang said, has always been a leader in showcasing the best of Chinese civilization and cultural heritage. In its latest collection, it wants to bring back the Tang style, including weaving and textile techniques.

"The best way to revitalize the dying thousand-year-old embroidery and handicraft techniques is to fuse it with modern design," Zhang said. "Only when production chain and profit circulation exist can unique handicraft techniques be brought back to life. That's how the concept of Hua Fu haute couture was born."

Established in 1992, NE•TIGER has tried incorporating historic embroidery and handicraft techniques to the world since its founding.

The brand is known for its fur coats, wedding dresses

and high-end Chinese dresses. Various traditional handicraft techniques such as the Yun brocade, reeling silk, paper cutting and knot tying are featured.

"We try to make each piece a work of art," Zhang said. "And we endeavor to fuse ancient civilization with modern culture and integrate the Orient with the West."

Embroideries are fused with a work of art and patterning techniques. Swarovski's crystal was used with the Yun brocade on a red Hua Fu piece.

Zhang has an eye on the international market, as NE•TIGER has design centers in Hong Kong, Russia, America, France and Italy, with 57 total designers, including 10 foreigners.

"Although our designs feature traditional Chinese cultural elements, we never reject foreign designers' ideas because they are more imaginative and see things from a different perspective," Zhang said.

The rebirth of Korean restaurant Saveurs de Coree

By Annie Wei

After five years in Nanluogu Xiang, Saveurs de Coree owner Chow King Tai, from Hong Kong, was forced to relocate due to a rent dispute. Four months ago, he reopened his restaurant in Xiang'er Hutong near Jiaodaokou South Street, not too far from its former location.

Saveurs de Coree has been praised by many long-time expats. It was one of the few restaurants on Nanluogu Xiang that did not use MSG or other additives, and Chow was known as one of the early shop owners during Nanluogu Xiang's transformation into the cultural alley it is today.

Chow lived in Canada for many years before moving to Beijing with his Korean wife. The couple is very selective in choosing ingredients and always makes sure that food is prepared in an authentic way.

Several ingredients are delivered to the restaurant every day, such as seafood from Shandong Province. In one of its appetizers, only organic tomatoes, cucumbers and eggplants are used. The restaurant's beef supplier is from Dalian, where they raise free-range Wagyu cattle.

The couple is interested in wine, so they have an impressive collection. Last Saturday, wine writer Hu Ruobing hosted a German wine pairing event with grilled Korean food at the restaurant.

Brian Yao, an IT engineer, and George Deng, an online video anchor, said they liked how a rose wine brought out the sweetness and freshness of the clams (49 yuan for clams, 109 yuan for oysters, king prawns, scallops and other seasonal assorted clams); they said the Riesling goes well with crisp asparagus and grilled mushrooms (89 yuan for 10 mixed vegetables such as pumpkin, potato, asparagus and corn).

For an sim (189 yuan for 150 grams), a fine steak fillet marinated in pear juice, Bordeaux reds (249 yuan) are best.

The couple rebuilt their restaurant at the new location, hiring a German architect to make the building more environmentally friendly. All the walls are thicker and insulate heat better, and there is an ionizer and humidifier.

The servers make customers feel like they're in a familiar place, and they're very attentive – each only takes care of two or three tables at once.

Saveurs de Coree

Where: 128-1, Xiang'er Hutong, Jiaodaokou, Dongcheng District

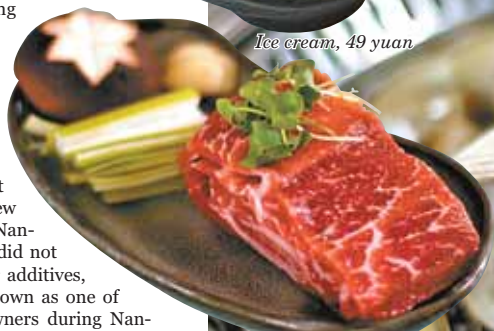
Open: 11 am – late

Tel: 5741 5753

Cost: Average 120 yuan per person



Ice cream, 49 yuan



Grilled beef, starting at 78 yuan for 150 grams



Beef rice, 69 yuan



Saveurs de Coree's new location.



Mixed seafood, 109 yuan

Photos provided by Saveurs de Coree

A wine fit for a festival

By Annie Wei

On the third Thursday of every November, France holds a special wine festival called Beaujolais Nouveau to celebrate a wine only produced in the Beaujolais region, which stretches from lower Burgundy to Lyon.

The festival started in 1951 and was recognized as a nationwide festival in 1970. It spread abroad in 1985.

The Beaujolais wine is now available in more than 150 countries. More than 50 million bottles are produced every year. It is believed that more than 200 million people will drink Beaujolais Nouveau during the festival alone.

In Beijing, many wine stores and clubs will host parties or related events to celebrate this festival.

Marc Fressange, CEO of Oh Marco Wine Cellar and a native Frenchman, spoke to *Beijing Today* about the festival.

Specific process of winemaking

This wine is made from black Gamay grapes grown in a granite soil, unlike most Burgundy red wines, which are made from pinot noir. The Gamay gives the wine a purple-pink color and is light in body.

These wines are fruity and have just barely been converted from grape juice to wine. They are easy to drink and can be paired with

light dishes. A Beaujolais Nouveau winemaker respects the tradition of picking grapes by hand for a successful carbonic maceration and a fruity result.

The grapes are put in a vessel full of carbon dioxide to trigger fermentation.

"This process allows for a fast fermentation and improves the fruity taste," Fressange said. "Every year they have a special taste. In 2011, the Beaujolais Nouveau will have a nice and smooth taste of blackcurrant."

Lacarelle, a high-quality Beaujolais in China

Oh Marco is the exclusive importer of Beaujolais Nouveau Village AOC bottles Beaujolais Chateau Lacarelle. This Beaujolais has won many awards in France, and was recently honored in Hong Kong. It has received 27 awards since 2000. The wine won its first prize in 1856. It comes from a family of wine enthusiasts and has been passed

down for nine generations, since 1750. Today the family owns more than 140 hectares of vineyards and invested 300,000 Euro (2.6 mil-

lion yuan) in 2009 for research and development.

Before November 17, you can book a bottle in advance for 198 yuan. On that day, Oh Marco Cellar on Financial Street and inside the Cafe du Centre in the French Cultural Center will host special events for Beaujolais Nouveau 2011.

For more information, visit ohmarco.com. For direct sales, please call 5879 0210.

Oh Marco, Cafe du Centre

Where: Institut Francais de l'Ambassade de France, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 8 am – 8 pm
Tel: 6553 2627

Oh Marco Cellar, Fortune Mall

Where: 7 Dong Sanhuan Zhong Jie, Chaoyang District
Open: 8 am – 10 pm

Oh Marco Jin Rong Jie (Oh Marco agship store)

Where: 9 Jinchengfang Jie, Xicheng District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6622 0566



Lacarelle, 198 yuan

'Music, please save me'

By He Jianwei

Fans of Taiwanese musician Sandee Chan call her "princess" because of her commanding and majestic stage presence, but for most of her career, she was famous for operating outside the limelight.

Chan first made a name for herself as a producer and songwriter, crafting songs for pop stars from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore over 15 years. She composed the theme song for Wong Kar Wai's film *In the Mood for Love* in 2000, and last year she wrote the soundtrack for the Taiwanese movie *Monga*.

As a singer, however, her fame has been delayed. She won her first singing award, for Best Female Singer, at the 20th Golden Melody Award in 2009.

This weekend, she begins her mainland tour with her latest album, *I Love You, John*.

Chan's music is unconstrained by genre, sampling the styles of alternative folk, pop and electronic. Her latest album is not as heavy as her previous works. She describes it as modern, retro, simple, youthful and laid-back.

Chan studied piano during childhood and played the keyboard in high school. She founded her first rock band when she was a freshman at Cheng Chi University and started to write songs.

The independent record label Friendly Dogs discovered her in 1991, when she was performing on stage at Young Star, an annual competition of college bands in Taiwan.

In 1992, she wrote songs for famous Taiwanese pop singer Jeff Chang and Huang Pin-yuan. Two years later, her first single, "A Long Way Down," was recorded as part of a compilation by Friendly Dogs records. That year, she released her debut album, *Washington Chopped Down the Cherry Tree*, which was



Chinese version (left) and English version of *What If It Matters*

accompanied by watercolor paintings that she completed for each song.

The album was not a big success, possibly because of the underlying message: all 14 tracks depict a life of idleness. For instance, in the track "To Be Sick," she writes that she wants to be sick because they she can stay at home and escape all of life's unpleasantness and pressures.

Chan has released 10 solo albums and two albums under the name Material Girls, a punk band founded in 2000 with Hong Kong music engineer Veronica Lee and illustrator Cola King. Chan and Lee serve as the singer and producer, and King is the lyricist and graphic designer.

The band debuted in Hong Kong at the end of 2001, but postponed the release of its first album until three years later. In 2006, the band won the Best Singing Group Award at the Golden Melody Awards.

Chan finds ideas through collaboration with new musicians. She carried out the Indie Soundcheck Project (IS Project) to discover a new generation of songwriters. The project has led to three albums.

Because of her straightforward approach, Chan has a reputation as a tough operator. She has produced numerous songs for pop stars, including Nicholas Tse, Jasmine Leong, Sammi Cheng and Faith Yang.

"The most important thing is returning to the essence of music, which is beautiful and unique," she said. She believes music can save a person's soul, so in "Youth," a song in her latest album, she writes, "Music, please save me!"



Sandee Chan (right) and a doll designed for her latest album, *I Love You, John*



Leaving on a Jet Plane

"The most important thing is returning to the essence of music, which is beautiful and unique."



A *Material Girls* album cover.



Chan's debut album *Washington Chopped Down the Cherry Tree*

I Love You, John

Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm

Admission: 280 yuan, 380 yuan for VIP (includes signed CD)

Tel: 6402 5080

“What matters is to live a romantic life.”



Tracing the roots of the Hani

By Zhang Dongya

The Hani ethnic group can trace its history back more than 1,000 years, but its culture is in peril due to outside influences.

Faced with this situation, director Li Xiaojang has attempted to record their current lifestyles. His close experiences with the Hani people are something he describes as deeply touching.

“My goal is to convey the beauty I saw and I sensed. Their brilliant culture contains immense beauty,” Li said.

Reshuitang, meaning “pool of hot water,” is a small Hani village in Yuanyang County, Yunnan Province.

As an outlying hamlet, its “roads” keep the village inaccessible to all vehicles except tractors. During the rainy season, even tractors are useless.

When 33-year-old Li Xiaojang first visited Reshuitang, it was by tractor. The vehicle bumped and bounced along the dirt road for four hours before arriving at the village.

But tractors themselves are precious. The village owns only one, and it was bought by Gebu, a local poet who now works in the city.

Li's film *To Sing With the Ancestors* records the lives of three Hani people: Gebu, a blind singer named A Ying and a wizard named Nuo Fu.

In 2006, the film won support from Cnax, a documentary foundation formed by professionals from the Chinese mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Li made as many as eight trips to the village to observe and record life in different seasons. He lived in the dorm of a school and stayed about a week each time.

The village has 200 households and 700 people. The entire Hani population numbers only 1 million, and they live primarily in Yunnan Province.

Locals live a simple life: they work in the terraced fields in the early morning and return home at sunset. They eat simple food but celebrate many festivals.

At the beginning, staff working with Li were curious about their lives. But they quickly became unable to bear the bitterness.

Li's film glosses over the bitterness and hardship to focus on the beauty.

There are many scenes in the film depicting women and men in Hani costume working in the fields and singing folk love songs. In one beautiful scene, the villagers till the field in a thick, noontime mist.

“My biggest regret is that I failed to convey how quickly the weather changes in the village. Every time I set up my camera equipment, the weather was completely different from when I started,” he said.

Scenes of elders singing epics connect the film. They meet to retell the stories of their ancestors. The Hani people do not have a written language and can only pass on their stories through oral tradition. In his film, the elderly storyteller uses the Chinese name “Zhu Xiaohu.” He is famous as the village's 80-year-old wizard.

Wizards, called “beima” in Hani, hold an important occupation in the group. Only those who are respected by the community, well-educated and intelligent can be trained

to become wizards.

Nuo Fu, a young wizard in the village, carries on the ancient traditions of his tribe. He often recites epic tales of old farmers while he works in the field. He also sings to call back the spirits of the dead for the villagers. When locals are hurt and bleeding, they call on Nuo Fu to sing and bring back their spirit. The Hani believe that the spirit can escape with one's blood.

Gebu, born in the 1960s, is the elder brother of Nuo Fu and the only one in his generation to finish middle school. He is a talented poet and works in the city.

“Gebu carried a lot of pain in his heart,” Li said.

Although Gebu left the village, he has a deep attachment to his tribe. He has tried to convince the local governors to construct paved roads to connect the village with the rest of the world.

He vents his frustration about the tribe's condition in his poems. When he visits home, he consults the local wizards and elders to find new material for his work.

A Ying, a blind singer, is one of the locals who offers him the most inspiration. When he lost his sight at the age of 18, A Ying began learning to play his father's three-string musical instrument. He writes songs and sings for a living.

While other Hani villages in the county have started promoting themselves as tourist destinations for those curious about their terraced fields and customs, Reshuitang is too backward and too difficult to access.

Most young Hani are leaving their villages to work as migrants in the outside. Some work as miners and others as waiters. At the end of the film, Nuo Fu also leaves the village to seek for work.

“The Hani people are suffering from their contact with the outside world. To some extent, it is an unavoidable and unsolvable problem. I'm not focusing on these questions – I just want to record their lifestyle and culture in case one day it changes or vanishes,” Li said.

“The world today has more access to resources than at any time in human history, but today we seem more confused than ever about what happiness is. The Hani people reminded me of the romanticized way of life that has been long forgotten,” he said.

Gebu married during filming, and Li recorded the process of a traditional Hani wedding and its related rituals. When the film ends, Gebu's wife gives birth to a son. Gebu goes by the Chinese surname Bai, but he chooses to use his real Hani surname when registering the birth of his son.

He hopes the next generation will be able to continue the Hani culture.



A bustling market in the Hani village Photos provided by Cnax

A pilgrimage up the holy plateau

By Zhang Dongya

Tibet is a destination people yearn for, which explains why there are so many itineraries that lead to Lhasa. The Northern Sichuan-Tibet line, which starts from Chengdu and passes through Luhuo and Ganzi, is a classic route that goes by historic and cultural relics and extraordinary natural scenery.

An advantage of this line is the number of destinations and checkpoints that are associated with the Tibetan ethnicity. It's the preferred route for those trekking to the Tibetan capital.

Tibetan regions in Sichuan

The journey starts by flying to Chengdu, Sichuan Province. After embarking from there, the first stop is Rilong, a town in Ngawa Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture in north-west Chengdu, where you can view the Siguniang (Four Girls) Mountain.

The mountain, comprising four snow-capped peaks and resembling four girls in white gauze, has attracted many climbers. In Rilong, there is a viewing spot for visitors to view the distant landscape. Whether you get to see the mountain, however, depends on the weather.

The next stops are Xiaojin and Jinchuan, which are famous as the sites of the Jinchuan Wars during the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). It is said that the Qianlong Emperor spent nearly 30 years trying to conquer these two places.

Today, a high watchtower

stands in Xiaojin, marking an ancient battlefield. The watchtower was first built during the early Qing and rebuilt in the 1940s. An old granite stele built under orders from the Qianlong Emperor still remains south-east of Jinchuan County, a remnant of big battles. Still preserved is the Qianlong Emperor's inscription in four languages: Han, Manchu, Tibetan and Mongolian. Many ancient weapons have been dug up from this site in recent years.

Eventually you'll reach Danba town in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture on the border of Tibet.

Danba is well known for its Jiaju Tibetan Village, a large village in the mountain. Jiaju means "a hundred households" in Tibetan, though really there are about 140 households, scattered along the gentle slopes.

Locals live in two- or three-story white and red buildings. Some are hidden in the forest, while others stand on a cliff. Near mealtime, smoke can be seen curling into the sky from the chimneys and melding with low-hanging clouds.

The village has several hostels and restaurants that have undergone development over the years. Tourists are advised to stay a night to experience authentic Tibetan life in the tranquil village.

It's a long way from Danba to Sertar, but the shedra – a Tibetan word meaning "places of learning" – and the celestial burial platform in Sertar are worth the trip.

Sertar's burial platform is one of four major platforms in Tibetan areas. It holds almost daily ceremonies that visitors can attend for free. The plat-

form, which was built on a gentle slope, is currently under restoration. Many Tibetans come a long way to Sertar to bury family members.

The Wuming Buddhist Academy in Sertar is also worth visiting. Located in a valley called Larong, it was once a small school founded in 1985. Now it is the largest Tibetan Buddhist academy in the world, with thousands of monks attending.

Some temples and Buddhist halls are dotted on the ridges of mountains. At the highest peak is a large Mandala, where monks and nuns chant sutras.

It's difficult getting from Sertar to Ganzi, but there are splendid views along the way. Ganzi County, as an intersection of Sichuan, Tibet and Qinghai, was once a trading hub. Mani Gange is a post where merchants and herds-

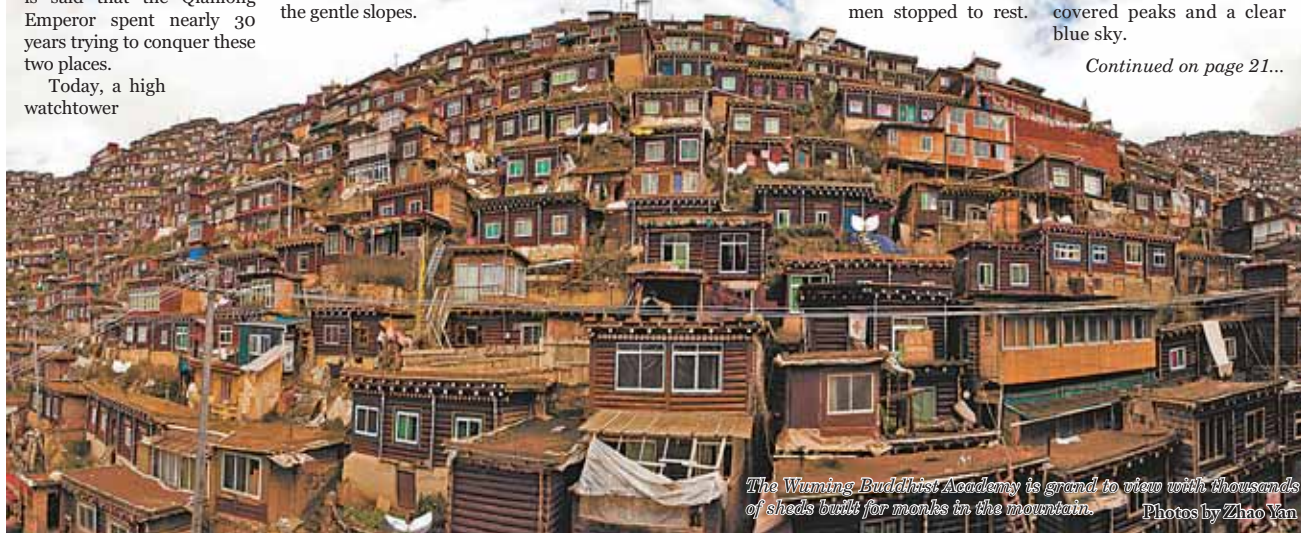
men stopped to rest. Most of the townsfolk are Kham Man – authentic Tibetan men – who wear a unique Tibetan garb.

The last stop is Dege, an important spot for Tibetan culture and history. The first place to visit here is the Dege Printing House, dubbed "encyclopedia of Tibetan culture." It's a typical Tibetan building that's been around for 300 years, and it houses valuable sutra scripts printed on woodblocks with refined carvings.

The route here, which is 6 kilometers of dirt and stone, takes you along Que'er Mountain.

At the foot of this mountain is a beautiful lake called Xinluhai, which was formed by melted glacier water and snow and is surrounded by various plateau plants. At some point on this bank, you'll glance up and feel like you're in a fairyland with shining lakes, snow-covered peaks and a clear blue sky.

Continued on page 21...



The Wuming Buddhist Academy is grand to view with thousands of sheds built for monks in the mountain.

Photos by Zhao Yan

...continued from page 20

Entering Tibet from Jiangda

Crossing Jinshajiang Bridge, you'll have entered Tibet. The route now winds through Changdu to Nyingchi before ending in Lhasa.

Changdu is a prefecture-level city in the east of Tibet. Kano Site in southern Changdu is a Neolithic site that is the highest in China. The site includes 28 ruins of ancient houses, about 8,000 stone tools and 300 tools made from bone. There are also fictile articles, ornaments and grains that have been excavated. Many items on display at the Tibet Museum in Lhasa are from here.

Driving south, one will reach Bangda, a town in Changdu Prefecture, and also the intersection of the Northern Sichuan-Tibet Line and the Southern Sichuan-Tibet Line. The road cuts through Bangda Prairie, offering a grand view with low clouds in the blue sky.

From Bangda, the journey becomes more difficult, with many natural barriers. The most famous is the "72 turns" between Bangda and Basu County, referring to curvy

stretches on the Sichuan-Tibet road.

Several "collapsed areas" between Basu and Ranwu also pose hazards.

However, the natural scenery is fantastic. Ranwu Lake is the best. At 3,850 meters above sea level, it's one of the most famous destinations on the Sichuan-Tibet Highway.

Located in southwest Basu County, it is a barrier lake formed by landslides. On its



Midui Glacier in Bomi

southern side are snow-capped mountains and glaciers, while on its north is a mountain range. It is blue and tranquil, reflective like a mirror and immaculately clear. You can see cobblestones beneath the shallow water.

The next stop is Bomi, in Bomi County. It's a small town with only one major street. Dec-

orations are fairly standardized here, and the city is very clean.

Between Ranwu and Bomi are several glaciers, such as Fossil Glacier near Ranwu Lake and Midui Glacier in Bomi. Both are near the Sichuan-Tibet Highway and worth a quick diversion.

Near Nyingchi, mountains are covered with plants. Nyingchi is so beautiful that it has been dubbed "Oriental Switzerland" and "Tibetan Jiangnan" (referring to an area south of the Yangtze River).

Leaving Langxian County, you will enter

Lhoka (Shannan) Prefecture. This is where Tibetan culture is said to have originated, so it's rich in Buddhist culture.

Sangye Temple is a representative temple in Shannan, with more than 1,000 years of history. It is famous for murals that tell the long story of history and religion of Tibet, as well as its legends and fables.

Another can't-miss destination is Lhama Latso, the most sacred lake of Tibet. Located in Gyaca County in Shannan, southeast of Lhasa, the small lake is the best spot to conclude this pilgrimage to Lhasa.



Sutra scripts printed on woodblocks in Dege Printing House



Travel information

It takes about two weeks to finish the Northern Sichuan-Tibet Line. First take a flight to Chengdu. There, you are advised to rent a car with a local driver. Or you can take a coach from Chengdu, where you are sure to rub elbows with native Tibetans. You should pay attention to its departure time, as some depart daily while others depart every two or three days. As some parts of the journey are dangerous to get to, buses may not always go there.



Tibetans pray at a large Mandala
Photos by Zhao Yan

The search for 'super ayi'

By Chu Meng

If there is one group in Beijing that has intimate contact with the city's foreign residents, it has to be housekeepers.

"Ayi" get a rare glimpse into foreign families' distinctive cultural backgrounds, and at the same time, they bring to foreign families an authentic understanding of local blue-collar life and culture.

But fierce competition has elevated some ayi with special skills and remarkable personalities into what their foreign employers term "super ayi."

Rather than cleaning house and doing laundry, some of them act as personal assistants and even interview their perspective employers. Others have outstanding artistic tastes and earn more than even their employers.



De Jin, a fashion expert, reads with her employer's son.

Milla Kariina's ayi – a fashion stylist

Milla Kariina is a Finnish photographer who has run a studio in Ju'er Hutong for five years. She is often invited by local fashion magazines to shoot cover models.

This June, a group of models, stylists and makeup artists came to her studio.

While everybody was preparing for another shoot, a middle-aged woman who worked quietly by the dressing room told one the models, "Your clothes don't match."

"She showed up in a fitted purple suit, black silk stockings and heels. Everybody thought she was my fashion assistant," said the Finnish photographer. "Actually, she is my ayi, and has been cleaning my studio for the last three years."

De Jin, the 48-year-old housekeeper, used to work at the No. 5 Beijing Spinning Mill. When she was laid off, she started working part-time as a cleaner for a fashion magazine. Since then, she came to

fall in love with all kinds of beautiful clothes and accessories, and started to study color theory.

"In order to have free accesses to fashion information, I only work in fashion-related places," she said.

"I always read the fashion magazines that are scattered around my working environment. In my spare time, I shop a lot – usually window shopping. It's how I stay up to date with what's popular," she said.

She also learned to seek out fashion bloggers' photos and review all the runway shows from Beijing International Fashion Week on the Internet. Recently, she has been addicted to online shopping.

Kariina said that although her ayi has some fame in the fashion scene, she still works as a diligent cleaner. "She always arrives an hour early and does her best to provide everyone here with a clean work environment. She is easygoing and talkative. She told me she hopes to work as an ayi until she is 60. After that, she wants to open a clothing store."

Amelia's ayi – an irreplaceable business assistant

British engineer Amelia Heaton Renshaw quit her job and opened Amelia's Jams, a homemade jams and chutneys delivery service in Shanghai. She just moved to Beijing to enlarge her sales territory last month. Her ayi, surnamed Long, came with her.

"Long has worked for me for one and a half years. I rely on her 100 percent for her jam-making skills, her Chinese and her cooking," Ren-



Long is an irreplaceable business assistant for her employer.



Amelia Heaton Renshaw makes and sells her own line of jams.

shaw said.

At the beginning, Long could only work two hours each day in Renshaw's house because she had so many other foreign employers. At that time, Renshaw had just begun selling her homemade jams in a local street market.

As the business grew, Renshaw found she needed a full-time assistant. Long accepted the new job because she loved cooking. Soon after, she began training Long to help making jam.

"She started out with washing and peeling. To my surprise, she learned it fast. Soon, she could stew the fruit jams and subtly control the volume of water, sugar and fire by herself," Ren-



Megumi Otsuki's ayi – a professional Sichuan cook with assistant

Megumi Otsuki, from Japan, is an assistant professor in the Journalism and Communications School of Peking University. Finding professors with assistants is easy – finding an ayi with an assistant is not.

Such an uncommon thing happened with Otsuki's ayi, the 44-year-old Tang Shumei from Guangdong Province. She said Tang has been working as an ayi for 10 years in Guangzhou and Beijing and has cooked for her family for two years now. Her Cantonese cuisine cooking skills have an outstanding reputation, and she is popular with many foreigners in Beijing.

"My husband and my two children can't eat unless she cooks. Japanese food emphasizes fresh seafood materials and light seasoning, which is similar to Cantonese food. Tang cooks so well that we eat whatever she offers us for supper," Otsuki said.

But soon, she discovered that Tang has her own assistant. Because she cooks for four to five families each day, Tang's assistant arrives two hours early to handle the cleaning and laundry.

When Tang arrives, she checks on her assistant's work, then handles the more demanding tasks like dusting artwork and ironing. Then she does the shopping and cooks in the kitchen.

"She also keeps reading professional Cantonese cookbooks. She even adjusted some of the Cantonese dishes according to Japanese cooking techniques," Otsuki said.

shaw said. "I still remember the first jar of jam she made. It was blueberry, a little sour and puckery."

Though Renshaw's Chinese is poor, the two communicate easily through eye expressions and gestures. Today her jams are sold at many supermarkets in Shanghai and will be soon in Beijing.

She said Long has become an irreplaceable part of her business. "She has taught me a lot about Chinese seasonings and food materials. I added some of those seasonings to my jam ingredients to create many unique flavors that are exclusive to Amelia's."

In Beijing, Long is working as a trainer for the company.



Megumi Otsuki's ayi, a professional Sichuan cook, has her own assistant.

Hotel

Marriott International announces its 100th hotel in China

Marriott International is cementing its position as a hospitality leader with the signing of its 100th hotel, the 345-room JW Marriott Hotel Shenyang.

Marriott International, which operates 56 hotels in China including The Ritz-Carlton, JW Marriott, Marriott Hotels & Resorts, Renaissance, Courtyard and Marriott Executive Apartments brands, has a pipeline of 44 confirmed projects in its brand portfolio.

China is one of Marriott International's most important markets outside of the US, and the company is committed to long-term growth and robust expansion throughout the region. It expects to open one hotel in China every month during the next three years.

Marriott International, which has operated in Hong Kong since 1991 and in Beijing since 1998, recently became the first international lodging group to move its entire Asia-Pacific HQ to China.

As a significant sign of its commitment to the country, the US-based lodging company established a senior leadership team for the region based in Hong Kong, with its own president for the continent so they can be closer and more responsive to their key growth market.



Swissotel signs contract for hotel in Russian resort of Gorky-Gorod

Swissotel Hotels & Resorts will add another Russian hotel to its portfolio: the international hotel chain has signed a management contract for a hotel in the Russian year-round mountain resort Gorky-Gorod, in the city of Sochi.

The deluxe hotel will be part of the Krasnaya Polyana winter sports area, which is due to be completed in time for the 2014 Winter Olympics. By then, 59 ski lifts should be up and running, providing access to around 200 kilometers of ski pistes.

Swissotel Hotels & Resorts already has a presence in Russia, having run the highly successful Swissotel Krasnye Holmy, Moscow for many years, and soon guests will have the opportunity to stay in the hotel chain's first ski resort.

"About 158 elegant rooms and suites, six penthouses, several restaurants and bars, as well as a Spa & Fitness Centre are planned for the new hotel," said Meinhard Huck, president of Swissotel Hotels & Resorts.

The future Swissotel will be located on the central square of the upper village, right along the shopping street and only a few meters away from the most important ski facilities. Guests will reach Gorky-Gorod via Sochi International Airport, which is a two-hour flight from Moscow and a three-hour flight from Vienna.

Sochi is located on the eastern coast of the Black Sea in the southern Russian province of Krasnodar Krai and attracts 4 million visitors each year from Russia and abroad.

Airline

Garuda Aromatic Fragrance to complete the Garuda Indonesia experience

As the nation's flagship carrier, Garuda Indonesia's commitment to maintaining and preserving the country's rich cultural heritage is embodied in the airline's unique brand of service called the "Garuda Indonesia Experience," which blends warm and gracious Indonesian hospitality with professional service.

Garuda Indonesia Experience covers all stages of travel, from "pre-journey to pre-flight, in-flight, post-flight and post-journey." It is part of the airline's continuous efforts to improve upon the services offered to its customers.

As part of this ongoing commitment, Garuda Indonesia, together with Indonesia musician Addie MS and renowned Indonesian health and beauty products maker Mustika Ratu, launched two innovative services: Sound of Indonesia and Garuda Aromatic Fragrance.

Garuda Aromatic Fragrance is a therapeutic scent created from a blend of fragrant cloves and other exotic spices. The fragrance will perfume the interior of Garuda Indonesia aircrafts, executive lounges and the sales office.



For sale

15-inch ASUS Gamer notebook for sale

I am selling an ASUS G51J-series gaming notebook. It has an Intel Core i7 CPU, Nvidia graphics, EAX advanced HD 4.0, a 15-inch display, a 500 GB hard disk, 6 GB of memory, a back-lit keyboard and DVD SuperMulti. Windows 7 Premium (English) comes pre-installed.

The computer was purchased in the US

in early 2010. It is in excellent condition, and the only reason I am not using it is because I've switched to a Mac. I am asking for 6,000 yuan and will provide a free copy of Scrapbook Factory deluxe version 5.

The item is located near Zhongguancun in Haidian District.

Email: chinalewis@yahoo.com

Dinning



International dinner buffet

Each evening, Bistro Atrium presents a brilliant International Dinner Buffet of sushi, sashimi, crab, prawns and oysters. The buffet highlights the very best of world cuisine with interactive show kitchens preparing Indian and Japanese food, Chinese seafood, Brazilian Churrasco, Beijing roast duck and European carvery, as well as freshly baked breads and sinful desserts.

Where: Park Plaza Beijing Science Park, 25 Zhichun Lu, Haidian District

Cost: 188 yuan per person, including wine, soft drinks and draft beer. Additional discounts are available for group bookings: 5-9 persons save 10 percent; 10 or more save 15

Tel: 8235 6699 ext. 650 or 651

Rent

Modern 3-bed apartment in Chateau Edinburgh

This flat is located on Baijiazhuang Road between Lufthansa and the central business district, south of the new embassy area and west of Chaoyang Park.

The 220-square-meter unit has three bedrooms and comes fully furnished

with an oven, dryer, microwave oven, DVD player and LCD TV.

Rent is 23,000 yuan per month including management and heating fees.

Tel: 13910511877

Email: lily@homesocn.cn

Fully furnished 1-bed apartment near Lido

Located in the Lido area, this apartment has convenient access to transportation. There are numerous bus stations, and it's easy to find a taxi.

At 65 square meters, the apartment is small but cozy and very new. Its bathroom and kitchen are very modern, and the interior

décor is of a high standard.

The apartment comes with high-speed Internet access and round-the-clock use of elevators, security and hot water. Rent is 4,200 yuan per month.

Tel: Lisa, 150 1069 0663

Email: Lingwoo1985@hotmail.com

(By Jackie Zhang)



Fri, Nov.

11

Nightlife**Because of You**

Five bands perform on Singles Day. Founded in 1997, Brain Failure is a famous Chinese punk band that has toured the US seven times and Japan twice. Convenience Store is a Brit-pop band with a stance of anti-materialism. Dude – featuring musicians from France, Poland, the US and China – is a pop punk band that adapts Chinese pop songs. Jacky Danny is a hard rock band that re-formed this October. Sleepism is a new electronic band.

Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm

Admission: 80 yuan advance purchase, 100 yuan at the door

Tel: 6402 5080

Sat, Nov.

12

**Nightlife****Black Hot Pisces Jazz Band**

Founded by five members, this jazz group tries to go beyond traditional jazz by mixing neo-soul, Latin and acid elements.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 6401 5269

Nightlife**Lanzhou, Lanzhou**

From Lanzhou, Gansu Province, the folk rock band Low Wormwood is famous for its experimental and ethnic style. The band will play tracks from its newest album, *Lanzhou, Lanzhou*, dedicated to their hometown.

Where: Mako Livehouse, 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8 pm

Admission: 50 yuan advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door

Tel: 5205 1112

Movie**That Day, On the Beach (1983)**

Directed by Edward Young, this Taiwanese film is about two friends who reunite after not seeing each other for 13 years. One is a successful pianist returned from a European tour and the other has just started a new business.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, north section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 4 pm

Admission: 60 yuan

**Drama****Richard III**

This is the first time director Sam Mendes and leading actor Kevin Spacey have worked together since *American Beauty*, the Best Picture Oscar winner of 1999. Their cooperation marks the finale of a three-year plan by the Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Old Vic and Neal Street that aims to reinterpret classic repertoire.

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 200-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Sun, Nov.

13



Mon, Nov.

14

Exhibition**The Strategy of an Empty City**

This exhibition presents Zhang Hongbo's photography of urban landscapes, but people are missing in the photos. His works show the relationship between the presence of settings and the absence of people.

Where: Three Shadows Photography Art Center, 155 Caochangdi Village, Changyang District

When: Until November 23, daily except Monday, 11 am – 7 pm

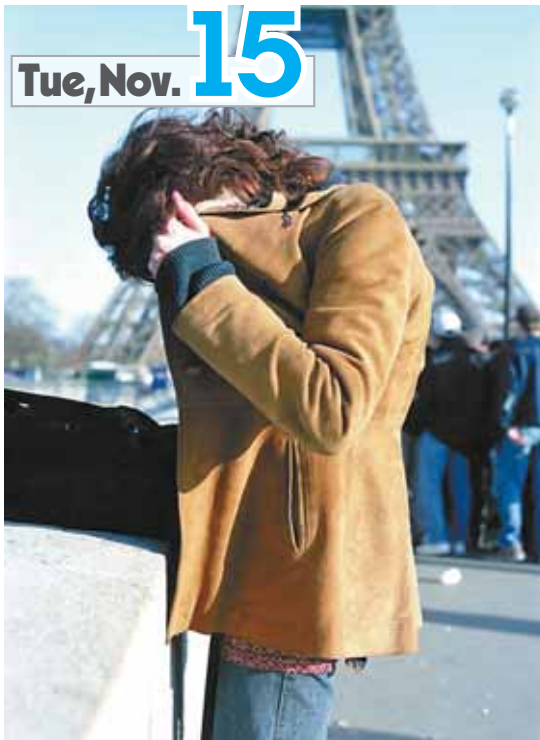
Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 2663



Tue, Nov.

15

**Exhibition****Divided by the Curtains – China / Italy / France Contemporary Art Exhibition**

This group exhibition presents more than 50 paintings, sculptures and installations by six artists: French artist Guillaume Janot, two Italian artists, Mattia Baldi and Roberta Pero, who currently living in China, and three Chinese artists, Li Wei, Zhu Ming and Liu Xudong.

Where: Times Art Museum, F35-37 D Block, CITC Plaza, 6 Jianwai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 3, 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8567 9817

Wed, Nov.

16

Movie**The Extraordinary Ordinary Life of Jose Gonzalez (2010)**

This documentary is about the life and mind of Swedish-Argentine singer Jose Gonzalez. Directors Mikel Cee Karlsson and Fredrik Egerstrand traveled with Gonzalez over the course of three years, during which time his fame grew tremendously.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students

Tel: 8459 9269

Thu, Nov.

17

Movie**Evita (1996)**

This movie is adapted from Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webb's musical based on the life of Eva Peron, who rose from the lower class of Argentina to become the country's First Lady and a spiritual leader.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 5900 9473

(By He Jianwei)

